CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for updating a plurality of anti-virus programs comprising the

2   steps of:

3   initiating an update of a plurality of anti-virus programs;

4   determining information to be updated;

5   transferring a plurality of updates; and

6   installing the plurality of updates.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the initiating step comprises the step of:

2   periodically initiating an update.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the initiating step comprises the step of:

2   initiating an update based on at least one predefined condition.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises the step

2   of:

3   determining information to update based on information relating to the

4   information to be updated and on information relating to the plurality of updates.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the information relating to the

2   information to be updated comprises at least one of a version, a creation date, a

3   modification date, file sizes, and presence or absence of files.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the information relating to the plurality of

2   updates comprises at least one of a version, a creation date, a modification date,

3   file sizes, and presence or absence of files.

1   7.   The method of claim 4, wherein the information relating to the

2   information to be updated and the information relating to the plurality of updates

3   comprises script or data files including information indicating the information to

4   be updated and the information relating to the plurality of updates.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the transferring step comprises the step

2   of:

3   transferring the update using a standard, non-standard, or proprietary

4   protocol.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the standard protocol comprises

2   hypertext transfer protocol or file transfer protocol.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the installing step comprises at least one

2   of:

3   decompressing a compressed update, decrypting an encrypted update,

4   and copying a file included in an update to a directory.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

2   logging in to a server containing an update.

1   12.   The method of claim 11, wherein the logging in step comprises at least

2   one of:

3   transmitting a username and password, filling and submitting an online

4   form, accessing a cookie, and redirecting to another location.

1   13.   The method of claim 4, wherein the transferring step comprises the step

2   of:

3   transferring the update using a standard, non-standard, or proprietary

4   protocol.

1   14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the installing step comprises at least one

2   of:

3   decompressing a compressed update, decrypting an encrypted update,

4   and copying a file included in an update to a directory.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

2   logging in to a server containing an update.

1   16.   The method of claim 15, wherein the logging in step comprises at least

2   one of:

3   transmitting a username and password, filling and submitting an online

4   form, accessing a cookie, and redirecting to another location.

1   17.   The method of claim 16, wherein the standard protocol comprises

2   hypertext transfer protocol or file transfer protocol.

1   18.   The method of claim 17, wherein the information relating to the plurality

2   of updates comprises at least one of a version, a creation date, a modification

3   date, file sizes, and presence or absence of files.

1   19.   The method of claim 17, wherein the information relating to the

2   information to be updated and the information relating to the plurality of updates

3 comprises script or data files including information indicating the information to

4 be updated and the information relating to the plurality of updates.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the initiating step comprises the step of:

2 periodically initiating an update.

1 21. The method of claim 17, wherein the initiating step comprises the step of:

2 initiating an update based on at least one predefined condition.

1 22. A system for updating a plurality of anti-virus programs comprising:

2 a processor operable to execute computer program instructions;

3 a memory operable to store computer program instructions executable

4 by the processor; and

5 computer program instructions stored in the memory and executable to

6 perform the steps of:

7 initiating an update of a plurality of anti-virus programs;

8 determining information to be updated;

9 transferring a plurality of updates; and

10 installing the plurality of updates.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the initiating step comprises the step of:

2   periodically initiating an update.

1   24.   The system of claim 22, wherein the initiating step comprises the step of:

2   initiating an update based on at least one predefined condition.

1   25.   The system of claim 22, wherein the determining step comprises the step

2   of:

3   determining information to update based on information relating to the

4   information to be updated and on information relating to the plurality of updates.

1   26.   The system of claim 25, wherein the information relating to the

2   information to be updated comprises at least one of a version, a creation date, a

3   modification date, file sizes, and presence or absence of files.

1   27.   The system of claim 26, wherein the information relating to the plurality

2   of updates comprises at least one of a version, a creation date, a modification

3   date, file sizes, and presence or absence of files.

1   28.   The system of claim 25, wherein the information relating to the

2   information to be updated and the information relating to the plurality of updates

3   comprises script or data files including information indicating the information to

4   be updated and the information relating to the plurality of updates.

1   29.   The system of claim 22, wherein the transferring step comprises the step

2   of:

3   transferring the update using a standard, non-standard, or proprietary

4   protocol.

1   30.   The system of claim 29, wherein the standard protocol comprises

2   hypertext transfer protocol or file transfer protocol.

1   31.   The system of claim 22, wherein the installing step comprises at least one

2   of:

3   decompressing a compressed update, decrypting an encrypted update,

4   and copying a file included in an update to a directory.

1   32.   The system of claim 22, further comprising computer program

2   instructions to perform the step of:

3   logging in to a server containing an update.

1   33.   The system of claim 32, wherein the logging in step comprises at least one

2   of:

3   transmitting a username and password, filling and submitting an online

4   form, accessing a cookie, and redirecting to another location.

1   34.   The system of claim 25, wherein the transferring step comprises the step

2   of:

3   transferring the update using a standard, non-standard, or proprietary

4   protocol.

1   35.   The system of claim 35, wherein the installing step comprises at least one

2   of:

3   decompressing a compressed update, decrypting an encrypted update,

4   and copying a file included in an update to a directory.

1   36.   The system of claim 35, further comprising computer program

2   instructions to perform the step of:

3   logging in to a server containing an update.

1   37.   The system of claim 36, wherein the logging in step comprises at least one

2   of:

3 transmitting a username and password, filling and submitting an online

4 form, accessing a cookie, and redirecting to another location.

1 38. The system of claim 37, wherein the standard protocol comprises

2 hypertext transfer protocol or file transfer protocol.

1 39. The system of claim 38, wherein the information relating to the plurality

2 of updates comprises at least one of a version, a creation date, a modification

3 date, file sizes, and presence or absence of files.

1 40. The system of claim 38, wherein the information relating to the

2 information to be updated and the information relating to the plurality of updates

3 comprises script or data files including information indicating the information to

4 be updated and the information relating to the plurality of updates.

1 41. The system of claim 38, wherein the initiating step comprises the step of:

2 periodically initiating an update.

1 42. The system of claim 38, wherein the initiating step comprises the step of:

2 initiating an update based on at least one predefined condition.

1   43.   A computer program product for updating a plurality of anti-virus

2   programs, comprising:

3   a computer readable medium;

4   computer program instructions, recorded on the computer readable

5   medium, executable by a processor, for performing the steps of

6   initiating an update of a plurality of anti-virus programs;

7   determining information to be updated;

8   transferring a plurality of updates; and

9   installing the plurality of updates.

1   44.   The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the initiating step

2   comprises the step of:

3   periodically initiating an update.

1   45.   The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the initiating step

2   comprises the step of:

3   initiating an update based on at least one predefined condition.

1   46.   The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the determining step

2   comprises the step of:

3   determining information to update based on information relating to the

4   information to be updated and on information relating to the plurality of updates.

1   47.   The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the information

2   relating to the information to be updated comprises at least one of a version, a

3   creation date, a modification date, file sizes, and presence or absence of files.

1   48.   The computer program product of claim 47, wherein the information

2   relating to the plurality of updates comprises at least one of a version, a creation

3   date, a modification date, file sizes, and presence or absence of files.

1   49.   The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the information

2   relating to the information to be updated and the information relating to the

3   plurality of updates comprises script or data files including information

4   indicating the information to be updated and the information relating to the

5   plurality of updates.

1   50.   The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the transferring step

2   comprises the step of:

3   transferring the update using a standard, non-standard, or proprietary

4   protocol.

1   51.   The computer program product of claim 50, wherein the standard

2   protocol comprises hypertext transfer protocol or file transfer protocol.

1   52.   The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the installing step

2   comprises at least one of:

3   decompressing a compressed update, decrypting an encrypted update,

4   and copying a file included in an update to a directory.

1   53.   The computer program product of claim 43, further comprising computer

2   program instructions for performing the step of:

3   logging in to a server containing an update.

1   54.   The computer program product of claim 53, wherein the logging in step

2   comprises at least one of:

3   transmitting a username and password, filling and submitting an online

4   form, accessing a cookie, and redirecting to another location.

1   55.   The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the transferring step

2   comprises the step of:

3   transferring the update using a standard, non-standard, or proprietary

4   protocol.

1   56.   The computer program product of claim 55, wherein the installing step

2   comprises at least one of:

3   decompressing a compressed update, decrypting an encrypted update,

4   and copying a file included in an update to a directory.

1   57.   The computer program product of claim 56, further comprising computer

2   program instructions for performing the step of:

3   logging in to a server containing an update.

1   58.   The computer program product of claim 57, wherein the logging in step

2   comprises at least one of:

3   transmitting a username and password, filling and submitting an online

4   form, accessing a cookie, and redirecting to another location.

1   59.   The computer program product of claim 58, wherein the standard

2   protocol comprises hypertext transfer protocol or file transfer protocol.

1   60.   The computer program product of claim 59, wherein the information

2   relating to the plurality of updates comprises at least one of a version, a creation

3   date, a modification date, file sizes, and presence or absence of files.

1   61.   The computer program product of claim 59, wherein the information

2   relating to the information to be updated and the information relating to the

3   plurality of updates comprises script or data files including information

4   indicating the information to be updated and the information relating to the

5   plurality of updates.

1   62.   The computer program product of claim 59, wherein the initiating step

2   comprises the step of:

3   periodically initiating an update.

1   63.   The computer program product of claim 59, wherein the initiating step

2   comprises the step of:

3   initiating an update based on at least one predefined condition.